GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6877
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000
G.D.P.
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government propose to evolve a monetary equivalent for domestic chores so that the contribution made by women in their homes is reflected in the Gross Domestic Product of the country;

(b) If so, details thereof; and

(c) If not, reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS & PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS.

(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): The estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are prepared following the concepts and principles of the System of National Accounts (SNA) recommended by the United Nations Statistical Commission. The SNA does not recommend that domestic chores whether performed by women or men be included as economic activity in the production boundary. The principal reasons are as follows:

(i) production of such services (domestic chores) within households is a self contained activity with limited repercussion on the rest of the economy.

(ii) as the services of domestic chores are not produced for the market, there are typically no prices that can be satisfactorily used to value such services and the estimated values would not be equivalent to monetary values for analytical or policy purpose; and

(iii) if such services by members of households for own consumption are included as economic activity, all persons engaged in such activities would become self employed, making unemployment virtually impossible by definition.